



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 323

February Session, 2016

Substitute Senate Bill No. 316

Senate, March 30, 2016

The Committee on Education reported through SEN. SLOSSBERG of the 14th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING THE POSTING OF CARELINE INFORMATION IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 10-221s of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2016*):

3 (a) Each local and regional board of education shall post the
4 telephone number for the Careline operated by the Department of
5 Children and Families, pursuant to section 17a-103a, as amended by
6 this act, and the Internet web site address that provides information
7 about the Careline in a conspicuous location frequented by students in
8 each school under the jurisdiction of the board. Such posting shall be
9 in various languages that are the most appropriate for the students
10 enrolled in the school.

11 (b) A local or regional board of education shall permit and give
12 priority to any investigation conducted by the Commissioner of
13 Children and Families or the appropriate local law enforcement

14 agency that a child has been abused or neglected pursuant to sections
15 17a-101a to 17a-101d, inclusive, and section 17a-103. Such board of
16 education shall conduct its own investigation and take any
17 disciplinary action, in accordance with the provisions of section 17a-
18 101i, upon notice from the commissioner or the appropriate local law
19 enforcement agency that such board's investigation will not interfere
20 with the investigation of the commissioner or such local law
21 enforcement agency.

22 Sec. 2. Section 17a-103a of the general statutes is repealed and the
23 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

24 The Commissioner of Children and Families shall [provide a
25 telephone hotline] establish and operate the telephone Careline for
26 child abuse and neglect that shall be dedicated to receive reports of
27 child abuse or neglect and to provide information concerning child
28 abuse or neglect. [Such hotline] The Careline shall accept all reports of
29 child abuse or neglect regardless of the relationship of the alleged
30 perpetrator to the child who is the alleged victim and regardless of the
31 alleged perpetrator's affiliation with any organization or other entity in
32 any capacity. The commissioner shall classify and evaluate all reports
33 pursuant to the provisions of section 17a-101g.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2016</i>	10-221s
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	17a-103a

ED *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill, which requires each local or regional board of education to post the telephone number for the Department of Children and Families (DCF) Careline in a conspicuous location in each school under the board's jurisdiction, does not result in a fiscal impact as local and regional school districts frequently post relevant information as a course of normal business.

The Out Years

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

OLR Bill Analysis**sSB 316*****AN ACT CONCERNING THE POSTING OF CARELINE INFORMATION IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill requires each local or regional board of education to post the telephone number for the Department of Children and Families' (DCF) "Careline" (the 24-hour hotline for reporting suspected child abuse or neglect) in a conspicuous location frequented by students in each school under the board's jurisdiction. The posting must include the Careline website address and be in various languages most appropriate to students at each school.

The bill also makes minor and technical changes to the law that requires DCF to have a child abuse hotline. Principally, it (1) designates the hotline as the Careline and (2) specifies that the Careline also provide information concerning child abuse and neglect.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage for the changes to Careline and July 1, 2016 for the school postings.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Education Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 31 Nay 0 (03/14/2016)